

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: October 8, 2019

Time: 6:00pm

Place: Town Hall
Egremont

Present at the table were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie.

Others in attendance: Marj Wexler, Alina Hsu, Mary McGurn.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the September 24 and October 2, 2019 minutes were accepted as edited.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board scheduled an all-boards meeting for October 29, at 6pm. This meeting will kick off the FY 2021 budget process. Boards will be asked to report on what they are working, progress made over the last year, plans for the next year, and any budget surprises or increases anticipated for FY 2021. The meeting will be video recorded and distributed to residents for viewing. Mary McGurn will help coordinate this.

OLD BUSINESS:

A mutually agreeable date for an “accountability meeting” with the Conservation Commission has not been established as of yet. Alina Hsu took considerable time to lay out 3 proposals for the above meeting: Selectboard commit to truth and fact-finding; start with a description of the role and responsibilities of the person or public body; work in a more collaborative way. A copy of her presentation, which she read portions of, is attached. She also noted that some portions of the October 2 meeting of the Selectboard were problematic.

The Board voted to extend the Human Resources Committee for another 6 months. The Committee will revise the job description for the Personnel or Human Resources Director and find an appropriate candidate to fill the position.

The Police Union contract seemingly requires annual re-appointment of part-time officers, but a 3 year term appointment for full-time officers. As well, officers can not be re-appointed without cause unless they are in their one-year probationary period. This information will be relayed to the Chief.

In light of a Zoning Board of Appeals members pending resignation, the Board will set up the interviews with the parties interested in serving on the ZBA.

FOLLOW UPS/UPDATES:

A few wrinkles have appeared in the negotiations with Fiber Connect and the MBI Action Plan. The team is working to iron them out. It does seem likely that Fiber Connect will move forward with the build out and obtain payments in arrears from MBI. Jeff Lazarus and Rolfe Tessem are applying for an IT Community Compact grant to get WiFi for key areas in Egremont.

The contractor will return to the South Egremont School this week to finish up a few punch list items. The class is having a Halloween Walk on October 31 to the Library with some stops in between.

A time line for Mount Washington's new 911 number system to be implemented has not been received.

The Board of Health has agreed to review the septic plans for the Affordable Housing project without having the Home Owners Association rules written until the homes are constructed. This should enable the work be to be done before the grant funds are lost June 30, 2020.

The Town's comments regarding the preliminary 25% design for the Route 23/41 reconstruction project have been forwarded to MassDOT. No acknowledgment has been received.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

The Board considered waiving Attorney-Client privilege in the instance of a September 17 executive session with Attorney Pollard in response to Alina Hsu's email informing the Board they the Executive Session was held illegally, but will wait until the October 22 meeting to consider this after Board members have had a chance to review the minutes of the meeting and other minutes for executive sessions held to discuss the same topic.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.20/Oct8

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.